

# Seattle-Tacoma International Airport



## Ecology and Port to Sign Agreement for Ground Water Study at Airport

**Public Comments Accepted  
Until June 13, 1997  
Public Meeting: May 21st**

*This newsletter, prepared by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), contains information about an agreement between the Port of Seattle (the Port) and Ecology for an environmental study of the ground water beneath Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (the Airport). The agreement and the scope of work for the study are currently available for public review and comment. The remainder of this newsletter provides details about the study and about how you can provide input. Please read this notice completely and feel free to contact Marianne Deppman at the Department of Ecology at (425) 649-7254, if you have any questions.*

### Port to Conduct Ground Water Study

Under a voluntary legal agreement with Ecology, the Port, operator of the Airport, is prepared to conduct a comprehensive study of the environmental condition of the ground water beneath the Airport. The legal agreement and ground water study will be carried out according to the requirements of the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA, Washington's hazardous waste cleanup law, chapter 70.105D, Revised Code of Washington). The ground water study is an investigation of contamination and is considered a remedial action under MTCA.

The ground water study is one condition the Port must meet to maintain state environmental certification of the Airport expansion project.

*The purpose of the ground water study is to gain a more complete understanding of the direction and behavior of ground water flows beneath the Airport and to make certain that the contamination that exists beneath portions of the Airport is not a threat to drinking water supply wells or surface water bodies in the area.*

A report on the first phase of the study is expected to be available in mid-1998. If additional data is needed to complete the study, tasks for a second phase will be negotiated and added to the Agreed Order.

In addition to the ground water study, the legal agreement calls for the Port and Ecology to help enhance pollution prevention activities at Airport underground storage tank and pipeline facilities to help prevent future ground water contamination. Many of the pollution prevention tasks will be complete by the end of 1997. Other pollution prevention tasks will occur on an on-going basis.

### Now is the Time to Comment

The legal agreement (called an Agreed Order), containing the scope of work for

## May 1997

Send Comments on the  
Agreed Order to:

Roger Nye  
Department of Ecology  
Northwest Regional Office  
3190 160th Avenue S.E.  
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452  
(425) 649-7251

The Agreed Order is  
Available at:

The Department of Ecology  
Northwest Regional Office  
3190 160th Avenue S.E.  
Bellevue, WA 98008  
(425) 649-7190

Sea-Tac Airport  
3rd Floor, Room 301

Burien Library  
14700 6th Southwest  
Burien, WA

Valley View Library  
17850 Military Road South  
Sea-Tac, WA

If you have any questions contact:

Marianne Deppman, Ecology's  
Public Involvement Specialist, at  
(425) 649-7254.

*For language translation or special  
accommodations, contact Marianne  
at the number above or at (425)  
649-4259 (TDD)*

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the study is now available for public review at several locations. Ecology will accept written comments on the Agreed Order for 30 days, until June 13th. See the box on page one for where you can review the Order and where to send your comments.

In addition, Ecology will host a public meeting at the Burien Library on May 21st for the purpose of answering questions and receiving comments on the Agreed Order.

### Public Meeting Details:

**When:** May 21st

**Agenda:** 6:30 pm, *open house*  
7:00 pm, *presentation* followed by  
informal *questions and answers* and a  
*formal comment period*  
9:00 pm, adjourn

**Where:** Burien Library  
14700 6th S.W.  
Burien, WA 98166

### Background Information

Over the years, jet fuel and other petroleum products have been released to the environment at the Airport. These substances were released in the Aircraft Operations and Maintenance Area (AOMA, see map on page 4) primarily from underground storage tanks, fuel distribution piping systems and to a lesser degree due to aircraft maintenance activities. As a result of these historic releases, the soil and ground water beneath some portions of the AOMA are now contaminated.

Twelve separate areas within the 1/2-square-mile (320 acres) AOMA are currently known to have ground water and/or significant soil contamination. The primary contaminant at the Airport is jet fuel. Other contaminants, such as gasoline, industrial solvents, mineral spirits, lubricating oil and aircraft deicing fluids, have also been found, but in much smaller amounts.

The jet fuel and other substances released at the Airport are considered hazardous substances

under MTCA. Environmental studies and/or cleanup activities are underway or are complete at all known contaminated areas at the Airport.

Much is already known about the ground water and the contamination beneath the AOMA. The known contamination appears to be localized and does not appear to threaten public water supplies or area surface water bodies. However, in order to confirm that the contamination is not a threat, now or in the future, a more comprehensive understanding of the behavior of ground water and contamination is appropriate.

### What Will Happen During the Ground Water Study?

The ground water study will be conducted in two phases. The first phase will include developing a computer model of ground water flow throughout the Airport and additional modeling focused on the movement of the ground water and the contamination beneath the AOMA.

The computer modeling will help identify the potential risk of the contamination reaching public and private drinking water supply wells (see map on page 4), and nearby surface water bodies: Bow Lake, Des Moines Creek and Miller Creek.

The second phase of the study will be described in an addendum to the Agreed Order and will include work to complete additional investigation activities. These activities will include drilling additional ground water monitoring wells that could be used to verify Phase I study results and to perform additional groundwater monitoring and/or investigation activities.

The findings from the ground water study will be published in a report. Information from the study may be used by the parties conducting cleanups at the Airport and could provide a basis for a consistent approach to cleanup actions within the AOMA.

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## **Pollution Prevention Activities**

The pollution prevention activities outlined in the Agreed Order are intended to enhance current pollution prevention practices at Airport underground storage tank and pipeline facilities by evaluating, implementing and monitoring all measures that could be taken to prevent future releases of contamination to soil and ground water. These activities will be conducted by both Ecology and the Port.

The pollution prevention actions outlined in the Agreed Order include:

- Working with the owners and operators of Airport fueling facilities to improve leak detection and leak prevention measures.
- Inspecting all underground storage tank (UST) systems at the Airport.
- Creating a database of all UST systems at the Airport. This database will be updated

annually using information provided by owners and operators of Airport fueling facilities.

- Annual reporting to Ecology on the status of all UST systems at the Airport.

## **What Happens Next?**

If no substantial changes are made to the Agreed Order based on public comments, work on the ground water study and pollution prevention activities can begin immediately.

After approximately 15 months, the Port will issue a report on the findings of the first phase of the study. At that time, you will be notified and will have the opportunity to review and provide comments on the report. You will also be notified when a second phase is planned for the ground water study.

## **Questions?**

For more information, contact Marianne Deppman, Ecology's Public Involvement Specialist, at (425) 649-7254.

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**LEGEND:**



Sea-Tac Airport Operations and Maintenance Area (AOMA)



Seattle Water Department Water Supply or Test Well (Highline Well Field)



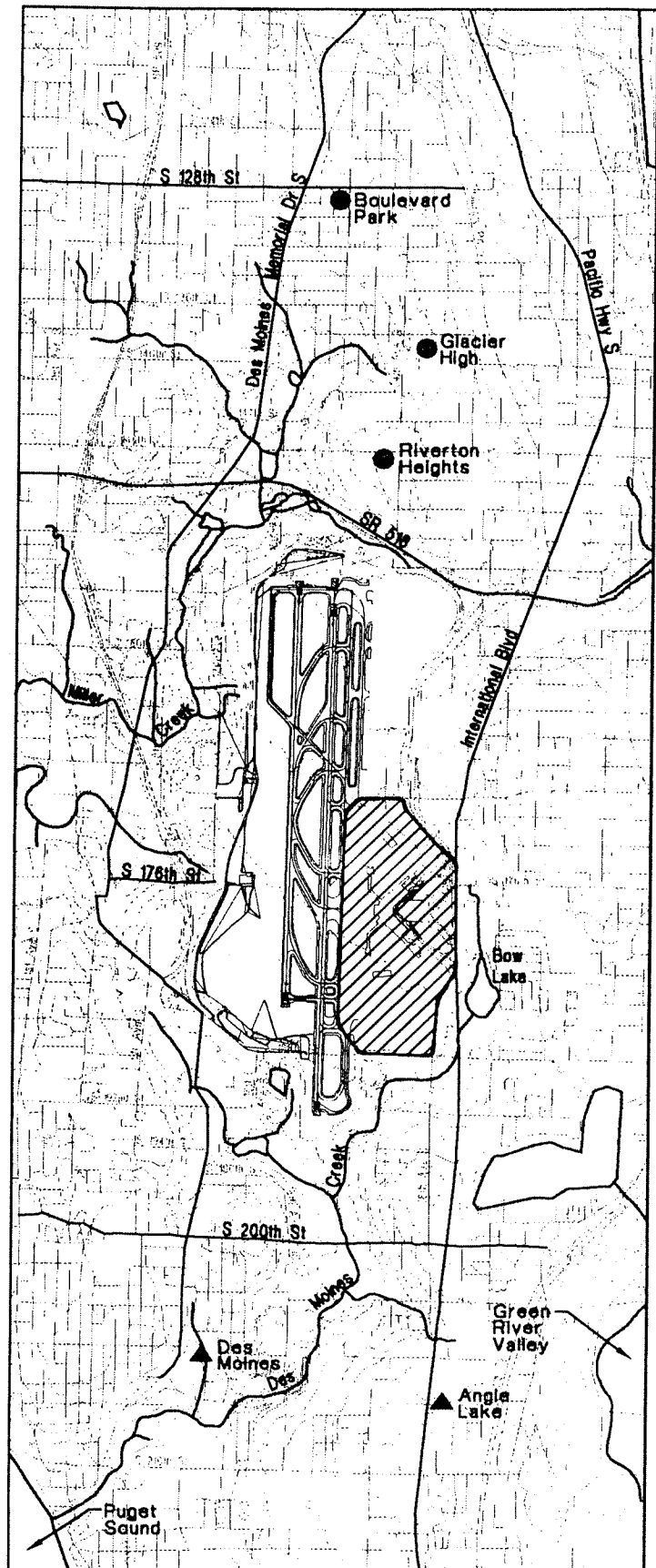
Highline Water District Water Supply Well



0 2000 4000



Scale in Feet



Reference: AGI Technologies, March 1997